

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 34, NO. 11

JUL. 2010

"HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES"

MEMBERSHIP:

Dues Notices - Just a reminder, the Dues Notice tapes are created on the last Friday of every month.

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2010-2011 YEAR:

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u> |
|--------------|---|
| JULY | July 30 (Friday) |
| AUGUST | August 27 (Friday) |
| SEPTEMBER | September 24 (Friday) |
| OCTOBER | October 29 (Friday) |
| NOVEMBER | November 26 (Friday) |
| DECEMBER | December 31 (Friday) |
| JANUARY | January 28 (Friday) |
| FEBRUARY | February 25 (Friday) |
| MARCH | March 25 (Friday) |
| APRIL | April 29 (Friday) |
| MAY | May 27 (Friday) |
| JUNE | June 30 (<u>THURSDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING</u>) |

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.
- On July 1, 2010, the VFW Life Membership department will no longer offer a 24-month installment option. The Life Membership Installment program (12 months) will continue to require an initial set up fee of \$35.00 and 11 equal payments totaling the corresponding fee based on the individual applicant's age. Effective September 1, 2009, the necessity to charge a \$1.75 monthly administrative fee is also being discontinued.
- The 2010-2011 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide. This can be viewed online via E-Membership.

- Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. An email was sent to all Departments on March 16, with an ad to be included in your Department Convention booklets. This program offers three levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

| <i>Enrollment Cost:</i> | <i>Annual Payouts (Natl, Dept & Post):</i> |
|-------------------------|--|
| Gold - \$1200 | \$18.00 |
| Silver - \$800 | \$12.00 |
| Bronze - \$400 | \$6.00 |

What Legacy will you leave?

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 100% DEPARTMENTS

ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
CALIFORNIA
DELAWARE
DIST. OF COLUMBIA
GEORGIA
HAWAII
IDAHO
ILLINOIS
LATIN
AMER/CARIBBEAN
LOUISIANA
MARYLAND
MISSOURI
MONTANA
NEVADA
NEW MEXICO
NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH DAKOTA
OHIO
OREGON
PACIFIC AREAS
TEXAS
UTAH
VERMONT
WEST VIRGINIA

MEMBER DUES PROCESSING:

Attention Post Quartermaster:

Your year-ending 2010 Post Membership Roster will be included with your final 2010 Quarterly Maintenance Journal mailed in July 2010.

Processing of 2011 annual dues will begin on July 1st 2010.

The 2010/2011 VFW Leadership Reference Guide is located at:

<https://emem.vfw.org/ssl/secsignin.aspx>

Use this page to securely sign into the VFW eMembership site.

New to the site: Create a New Account

Repeat User: Secure Sign In

VMail – vfw.com or <http://vfw.com/src/login.php>

Check box: “I have read and agree to all rules regarding VMail”

Enter: postXXXXXX (your post number) – “post” must be typed in lower case

Enter: Password

Life Membership Installment Plan

Effective July 1st 2010, only the 12-month installment plan is being offered. **NO** 24-month plan.

Need assistance: Please contact Member Dues Processing at 1-800-963-3180.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Just a reminder to all Department and Post Commanders that copies of National By-Law, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments will not be mailed to each Post as in years past, but will be available on-line in E-membership beginning the first week in August. More details to follow.

EMBLEM and SUPPLY/VFW Store:

CONFERENCE SHIRTS – Don’t be left out - place your Conference Shirt orders TODAY. These shirts are color-coded to identify your conference at the **All Conference Reception** at the VFW National Convention in Indianapolis. An email was sent out to each Department Adjutant and/or Quartermaster with the cost and order form.

CONVENTION is coming up quick! Get orders in early to avoid last minute rush.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Next month is the National Convention in Indianapolis. Stop by the NMS booth to check out our new fundraising ideas! Operation Uplink lapel pins will be available for a \$2 donation. The National Military Services Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, August 22 from 2-3 PM. Our workshop will be on Tuesday, August 24 from 1-4 PM, and is open to the public. The workshop will begin with a 1:00 check presentation for NMS or any of the three specific programs. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 or email lferguson@vfw.org by July 31st if you will be presenting a check. We hope to see you there!

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

VFW Sponsored Post Insurance Program

Are you experiencing difficulties finding affordable insurance for your Post? The VFW Post Insurance Program is here for you! The VFW Post Insurance Program is designed specifically to meet the unique insurance needs of VFW Posts. We offer the coverage your Post needs including Property, General Liability, Workers' Compensation, Liquor Liability, Special Events and more. To obtain a free, no-obligation quote for your Post call **1-800-829-8390**.

ANNUITIES

Annuities give you the peace of mind of a retirement vehicle that will safely grow in value, while protecting your initial investment.

Highlights of the VFW-sponsored annuity plan:

- Tax-deferred growth of retirement funds
- Guarantee minimum interest rate- safe
- Income option you cannot outlive
- Access to your funds penalty free
- Probate free

To find out how the VFW-sponsored annuity program can give you the long-term financial security you deserve call toll-free **1-800-772-6882** or visit ***www.pfs-vfw.com***

Health and Dental Insurance

VFW-Sponsored Insurance Programs offers comprehensive, affordable health insurance plans for members and their families, age 64 and younger. These plans provide benefits for anyone looking for short-term temporary or permanent health insurance coverage. Call 1-800-829-8390 for more information or visit **<http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MajorMed.htm>**

Simplified Issue Term Insurance

With the **VFW- Sponsored Simplified Issue Term Life** plan, planning ahead for your family's financial security doesn't have to be a major headache. It's pure term protection with no fancy investment features that can drive up the cost. Coverage is guaranteed renewable and protection is guaranteed convertible.

Select pure term life insurance of \$100,000, \$75,000 or \$50,000. Call 1-800-749-6983 for more information or visit **www.vfwinsurance.com**.

Pet Insurance

VFW offers affordable pet insurance through VPI that gives you peace of mind. Enrollment in this coverage is available to pets age 10 and younger. However, once a pet is insured, coverage will not be cancelled due to age. To learn about protecting your pet and to obtain a free quote, call 1-877-738-7874. Or visit the website at **<http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Pet.htm>**.

VFW Member Insurance

For information about various insurance plans that are sponsored by National, please visit www.vfwinsurance.com.

To view or print the Member Insurance Brochure follow these steps:

- 1) www.vfw.org
- 2) Click on **Membership Benefits** button on left side
- 3) Click on **VFW Member Insurance Brochure** in gray box, upper right side of screen

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Did you receive your personalized calculator? – Last month, we mailed a personalized calculator to a large number of VFW members as a thank you gift for all of your support. As you know, there is no way to calculate the true cost of freedom. We must always be here to support our fellow veterans from past wars as well as our current military and their families. Remember, when you support the VFW with your generous gifts, the programs put in place for veterans of all wars will continue to be here for generations to come.

RushExpress Letter Pak – Late in June, we mailed an urgent dispatch letting you know about the perils of our troops returning in this tough economic period. Veterans Service programs need urgent help to continue assisting our newest veterans when filing entitlement claims and in accessing the new GI Bill. A very generous anonymous donor offered to match donations received through August 5, 2010 up to \$50,000! So, before time runs out on this benevolent offer, please consider supporting the Veterans Service program with your gift. You will be helping veterans of all wars and conflicts across the nation!

Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – It is a realization that not everyone wants to receive our mailings but would still like to support the VFW's programs. This is why we developed Partners in Patriotism. Partners in Patriotism is a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly basis, reduce expenses, and eliminate unwanted mail. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis that is either charged to your credit card, or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in this option, please contact VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at vfwfundraising@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of VFW's online community, visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive a monthly e-newsletter with new grassroots stories about VFW out in the communities assisting veterans in need, educating the youth, and assisting military families across the nation and overseas. Also, as a member of VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special e-mails with breaking VFW news, and special opportunities to help VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families.

VFW is Helping Our Heroes...Read Success Stories – Please visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork to see VFW's grassroots success stories that are making a real difference for real people. New success stories will be posted as the VFW is out there doing its job – so check back often. If you enjoy reading these success stories and would like to receive a monthly update, please visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up to receive the VFW at Work newsletter automatically at the beginning of every month!

Department Resources Website – Please remember to visit www.vfwdepartmentresources.org for the latest news, program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department.

Remember, it is very important for VFW Departments to communicate the importance of supporting department programs.

PROGRAMS:

DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS. Military Service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (Left to Right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard. **For Military flags, click here**
<http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11th is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 17. Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure.

VFW HONORS AMERICA’S TEACHERS DURING 2010-2011 PROGRAM YEAR. The VFW wants to recognize the nation’s top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America’s history, traditions and institutions effectively through the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Based on the nominees submitted by November 1st, local VFW posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners’ names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by December 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest. This is part of the 2010-2011 All American Program.

VFW’s National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher’s school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and, an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Conference.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at www.vfw.org under Programs and www.vfwdepartmentresources.org under Program Information or ordered through www.vfwstore.org or calling 1-800-821-2606.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Emblem and Supply, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980> . Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

VFW PROGRAMS WORKSHOP. During the National Convention in Indianapolis, to be held at the Indiana Convention Center, there will be a workshop “The Successful Post” on Tuesday, August 24, at 1:00 pm (please check Convention booklet for room assignment).

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2011. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

POW/MIA FLAG - OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 21 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 17, (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. **To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here**
<http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>

BUDDY POPPY:

Please remember that Buddy Poppies are not just for Veterans Day or Memorial Day; they are also very appropriate for distributing throughout the year at various events. The proceeds continue to help our veterans and their families in addition to local charitable causes. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to: <http://www.vfwstore.org>

NEW!!! Anniversary Buddy Poppy Information:

The response has been overwhelming to the Diamond, Gold, and Silver anniversary Buddy Poppies. These poppies, as well as a re-order, have now been depleted. Our veterans are working hard to meet the demand for these new poppies, so response to orders may take additional time.

The maximum order of 500 per Post, Auxiliary, District, or Department, will remain in effect and the orders will be processed on a first come/first served basis.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That's an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don't have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock's industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don't wait until it's too late. Enroll today and you'll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit www.lifelock.com or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (543-3562). Use promo code "VFW".

Glow Parking LLC – Nationwide Airport Parking Network

Glow Parking, LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned business, is proud to announce the VFW Foundation as its primary charity. www.vfwparking.com extends Glow Parking's nationwide airport

parking network to members of the VFW and their families. Originally developed for the Federal government, www.vfwparking.com offers the same best value rates, and you never pay any booking fees.

The reservation system to book your airport parking is quick, simple, secure, and best of all – guaranteed! You have easy access to your reservation history; therefore, you never need to worry about losing a receipt again. Visit www.vfwparking.com, or call 1-877-891-GLOW (4569).

Veterans Travel Service, Inc., – a VFW member benefit worth remembering!

If you are planning a trip, whether it is for business or personal, one of the member benefits is just a phone call away. Veterans Travel Service, Inc. has been working with VFW members since 1986 and can handle all your travel needs. They are experienced in every area of travel. It could be for a tour, cruise or vacation package. You receive a VFW rebate when booking with Veterans Travel Service. If you need help with airline tickets, their expertise might be the ticket you need; although they charge service fees, the savings will usually far outweigh the cost of the fee. So if you're travelling soon, call them at (800) 325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

Save with Sprint!

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a 15% monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already, a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. These offers are only valid at: www.sprint.com/vfw or 1-866-869-6686.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to 20% off the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount ID number 62615 at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels.

Call 1-877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

Car Rental Discounts

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo, Budget and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: CDP164126
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: A9935000
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: V026800
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA Assist)

Emergency assistance transportation to private or VA hospitals at your discretion. To learn more call: 1-800-423-3226 or visit www.masaassist.com/vfw. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

Veterans Care Plus (VCP)—this is not INSURANCE

Hearing Aid Program, Diabetes Care Management, Drug Savings Program and US Vision Plan. To find out more call: 1-877-252-0970 or visit www.veteranscareplus.com. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

Dell Computer Discounts

To order by phone-Members call 1-800-695-8133 and mention ID# PS30482412. For Posts, call 1-800-695-8133 and mention ID# PS76832215.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

HOMAN, Richard W., Past Commander-in-Chief, 1968-1969, Post Service Officer and a Life Member of Our Five Boys Post 9666, Sugar Grove, West Virginia, June 21, 2010.